

No. 41: December 2017

What's Happening in LG

A Free Local Newsletter Sponsored by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance

Christmas Parade Dec. 5.





CHRISTMAS PARADE... Grand Marshal Marcia Payne is wrapped up warm on a chilly night for the annual parade sponsored by the Locust Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Dec. 5. Payne owns DJ's Diner which has been in business more than 30 years on Main Street. Temperatures hovered near 30 degrees when the parade began at 7 p.m.

Santa Shop scheduled at Early Learning Center

The Early Learning Center will host its annual Santa Shop from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Dec. 12-13 in the school's cafeteria.

Vendors will offer inexpensive gift items that children might buy for their families for Christmas. In years past, vendors have provided craft items, Avon, jewelry, and many other small gifts.

Vendors will pay \$10 to set up, and that money will be used to give children who do not have money to spend a chance to buy items.

Santa will also be on hand to take class pictures with the students and to hand out treat bags to each of them. Each student will also receive a free picture of the class.

Other activities at the ELC this month are the annual Christmas programs: Pre-kindergarten's program will be at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 13; kindergarten at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 7; First grade program at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 8.

'Love is. . . coffee in bloom'

New art show contest announced by LGAA

"Love is a Battlefield,"
"Love is Strong," "Love is
Alive." Love is a myriad of
things, as the song titles
suggest.

"All you need is love."

"And all the Locust Grove Arts Alliance needs are artists to enter our next show and contest. "Love is..." Show and Contest February 14, 2018. The Locust Grove Arts Alliance is sponsoring a gallery showing of all forms of art with the completed theme "Love is..." Artists may enter paintings, sketches, composed poetry or prose, photographs, mixed media pieces, etc.," show coordinator, Roxann Yates said.

The entries will be displayed in the LGAA office art gallery from Feb. 14, 2018 to March 14, 2018. The deadline for entering is Feb. 7, 2018.

Previous shows included the In An Instant Photo Contest and Show and the Handmade Holiday Ornament Contest and Show.

"This will be our third



gallery show since acquiring the gallery hanging system through a donation by Bob L. Taylor. We appreciate his interest in the arts," Yates said.

Contest rules are listed below:

- 1. Create a piece of art, no larger than 11"x14" showcasing the theme of "Love is..." and complete the sentence on your entry form. Forms will be posted at our website: lgartsalliance.com the first week of January.
- 2. The piece should be made suitable for hanging in the gallery.
 - 3. Bring your art piece to (Continues on Page 4)

Library plans pj party; forgives overdue fees

Join us for the Annual Christmas Paiama Party on December 12 from 5:30 until 7 p. m. We'll have crafts for kids (ages 3 - 12). This year, we'll be showing a movie on our new flat screen TV. No more projecting on to a white sheet for this library. Did I mention cookies? Yes, there will be cookies AND chocolate milk. We're looking forward to seeing you. Don't forget to wear your PJs.

November was "fine forgiveness" month at the library. A letter went out to patrons with overdue books forgiving them of their late fines if they brought a food donation for the local food pantry. Approximately 60 pounds of food has been collected.

ABCmouse.com is now free to all public libraries. This program ordinarily would cost an individual



\$9.95 a month but now we are able to offer it for free to all Locust Grove Library patrons. Shortcuts have been made on the public computers to ABCmouse and parents are welcome to access it with their children and take advantage of the many learning activities offered on ABCmouse.com.

Last but not least, LED lighting has been installed inside and outside the library. All of our former fluorescent and halogen light fixtures have been replace with energy efficient LED bulbs. LED lighting is easier on the eyes and an energy efficient choice for lighting.

By Marea Breedlove, Librarian

About *What's Happening in LG*

EDITOR'S NOTE: While this newsletter is produced by the LGAA and will contain that organization's news, we also want to publish information about any activities in Locust Grove that our community might be interested in.

Please contact Betty Perkins at blperkins@sstelco.com or 918-479-5617 (leave a message if no answer), if you have news on LG events, places, or people f, or want to place an ad in the newsletter. As LGAA is a nonprofit organization and the newsletter is provided free to everyone, advertising must support the publication of this newsletter. Your support is greatly appreciated.

CHURCH NEWS

FUMC youth wrapped gifts

Christmas gifts can still be dropped off at the First United Methodist Church to be gifted wrapped, saving you plenty of time during this busy season.

The youth of the church will be wrapping gifts Dec.13 and Dec. 17. Gifts can be left on both of those days from 1-5 p.m. Pickup of the gifts is from 7-8 p.m. on the same day as drop off.

For those who bring their own wrapping and decorative materials, the cost of getting the gift ready for giving is \$2 per gift. If the youth provide the wrapping paper and bows, the cost is \$3 per gift.

Monies earned with go to help provide the activities of the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Get your church news here!



Send news items to blperkins@sstelco.com



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WINNING WINDOW. . . Todd Sparks of the Cottage Art Gallery in Tulsa stands in front of the first place winner in LGAA's Christmas Window Painting Contest. Sparks picked the window painted by Tristin Brunner and Stuart Horton at McFarland's Antiques as the winner of this year's contest.. Second place went to Sydney Schwichtenberg for her picture of a snow queen on the window at Wonder City Coffee. Third place went to the LG 4-H Club who painted the west window at Ingram's Rod Shop. Emily Ackerman won the people's choice for her work on Bank of Locust Grove's window. See ornaments winners Pages 6 & 10.

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Lots of Winners. . .

LGAA contest firsts in ornament, window

Grove Arts Alliance discussed the ornament contest and exhibit currently open to the public in the LGAA office when they met Nov. 8.

Winners of the ornament contest were announced Dec. 5, the night of the Christmas Parade, sponsored by the Locust Grove Area Chamber of Commerce. Winners in each category and the winner of \$50 each are Betty Perkins, most artistic: Sasha Durnal, best use of nature; Ali Pierce, most impactful.

Winners of the window decorating contest, also sponsored by the LGAA, were Tristin Brunner and Stuart Horton, first, McFarland's Antique; Sydney Schwichtenberg, second, Wonder City Coffee; Crystal Pritchett & 4-

Members of the Locust HClub, third, Ingram's Rod Shop west window; and Emily Ackerman, people's choice, Bank of Locust Grove.

> They also discussed the need for more volunteers to keep the office on Main Street open. Hours are from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday. One-half days can be volunteered for as well as full day time slots.

> See Roxann Yates mornings at the Wonder City Coffee Shop or call her at 918-530-5321.

> Yates also told the group that the LED sign which was bought with a grant from Northeast Oklahoma Electric has arrived and is ready to be programmed and hanged.

> Future fundraiser ideas discussed were a doodling contest, repeating the Beans & Bingo event with a silent auction, a mystery dinner, and a bicycle ride. No formal actions was taken on any of these.

> All fundraising money earned goes to support the scholarships and workshops presented by the LGAA which is a 501 C-3 nonprofit, and all donations are tax deductible.



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FACE LIFT. . . Jane Rogers is shown with a part of the paintings she contributed to the Senior Citizens Center's building. She was provided a backdrop for her painted by Jason and Jared Turner who painted the building.

ove Is...

(Continued from Page 1) the office or Wonder City Coffee or the LGAA office to enter.

- 4. Enter the contest at the cost of \$10 per piece.
- 5. Artists' works will be judged by three artists that will not enter the contest. First place will win \$100, second \$50, third \$25. Honorable mentions will be awarded ribbons. People's Choice award will

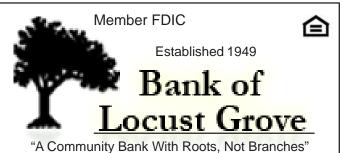
be voted on by the public on opening day of the show—Feb. 14. 6. Judging criteria include: originality, presence, impact, clarity of theme, skill, technique.

"Watch for details posted soon at the LGAA website: lgartsalliance.com and on the Facebook page," Yates said.

For more information contact Yates roxannperkins@gmail.com.



MASONS HELP 4-H CLUB. . . Members of Locust Grove Covey Masonic Lodge #460 presents a check to the club members which represents \$2500 earned by them at the Christmas in the Barn event, and \$2500 matching funds from the lodge. Pictured in the back row are Don Hanna, Robert Porter, Burt Sievert, Dewey Talley, John Poe and Charley Standingwater. In front are 4-H'ers Jimmy Vich, Kaden Rhodes, Jessie Robinson and Dusty Ross. Barbara Ross, one of the club's sponsors, expressed thanks to the lodge for its gift. "We greatly appreciate every one of them," she said.



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Astronomy class offers surprises

By Sydney Schwichenberg

I was conned into believing Intro to Astronomy would be anything but pure torture.

Entering the class, I believed I would be star gazing and having in depth discussions about the Little Dipper.

I realized very quickly that I was extremely wrong. Astronomy is a class full of formulas and calculating the distances, speeds, weight, likes and dislikes of stars and planets.

I asked a junior astrophysicist major if she un-

Freshman at OU

derstood what was going on while we both went cross-eyed looking at our weekly assignments. She answered that we were being taught advanced calculus and physics. I, the Professional Writing major, almost dropped out of college right then and there.

Unfortunately, I can't hate everything about this class, no matter how des-

perately I try.

One shining part about astronomy is a five-foot tall astrophysicist major from Turkey. Her name is Tuba, and she is good at everything. As a child, she was awarded a scholarship

to the country's best schools. From there, she was accepted into the "Harvard" of Turkey, and somehow, she found her way to the University of Oklahoma.

She tutors me and a friend, Emily, for Astronomy. A week before a test, you can find us huddled in the light of Tuba as she makes jokes about the possibility of time travel. Which is apparently incredibly possible.

After one of these study dates while we walked her home, Tuba invited us to Turkish dinner with her. We both screamed, "Yes, of course!" When we arrived the next night at her apartment, we were met with one of her three roommates. Mary is an international business grad student from Taiwan, and she was also in Spanish I. Surprise, she was bet-

ter than me at it. Mary is also unfairly adorable and worked for Coca Cola over the summer, and she's eyeing a position at Google within

the upcoming year.

There I was, sitting on the floor of an apartment with literal geniuses, and with Emily, a film major whose curiosity fueled most of our conversation that night.

We made the obligatory smelly feet joke, because every country that isn't westernized leaves their shoes at the door and we weren't prepared for this.

(Continues on Page 6)



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Freshman at OU . . .

(Continued from Page 5)

We abandoned our shoes at the door and prayed no one would stare too hard at our in-desperate-need-of-apedicure toes.

Tuba prepared us a meal in her tiny kitchen. We ate a tomato soup with mint as the only spice. Mint is a big thing in Turkey.

Throughout the meal, Tuba would taste something and whisper, "More mint" and throw another handful with an innocent smile.

Also, yogurt. Yogurt is to Turkey what ranch is to Oklahoma. And me, being the polite guest who is definitely lactose intolerant, dipped everything I ate that night in pounds of yogurt.

Mary gave us hot water to drink when we asked for beverages. She also made us instant milk tea, which is something that I strongly believe should be a household item in America.

At this moment, I feel I should say Mary weighs maybe a 100 pounds and, to my knowledge, ate two separate dinners, a loaf of sourdough bread, and a sweet potato.

As the night went on, we watched a rerun of the MTV Award Show while eating gelatin candy from Taiwan. Then, their Columbian roommate wandered wearing a leather

jacket. Somehow, we all began to try to pronounce 'perro' which means 'dog' in Spanish. Probably. I'm only in Spanish I, so don't take my word.

We discovered Mary hardly ever used an 'r' sound, if ever, in her language. The two fought back and forth as they screamed "No, Perrrro!" and "Pello."

Unfortunately, the night had to come to an end, and I left with an appreciation of the people I had met and loving Tuba more than ever, if that's even possible.

Tuba is going back home at the end of December to continue her studies in Istanbul, where she will graduate and probably change the world with groundbreaking discoveries.

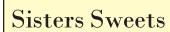
I know that when I look up into the stars now, I'm going to remember the headache of astronomy, but I am also going to think about how Tuba helped me understand it.





MASONS MATCH FUNDS. . . Members of the Covey Masonic Lodge matched the \$500 earned by the Locust Grove Middle School Cheerleaders Oct. 14. The money will be used to buy winter uniforms for the girls. Masonic Lodge members shown are, left to right, Steven Garrison, Cherokee Ice, Richard Ross, Don Hanna, John Poe, Burt Siewert, John Dodge, Dewey Talley and Charlie Standingwater. Cheerleaders and sponsors from left to right Danielle Bates, Pam Bates (money manager), Macie Hurt, Lily Davis (coach) and Jacy Peoples.

Ornament Winner... Ali Pierce stands beside her Fourth of July ornament which won for greatest impact at the LGAA Ornament Contest. Her campfire ornament was made of things found in nature, including a red leaf for fire.



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ROMP Rummage moves across street

With the help of family, friends, and the LGHS FFA, the ROMP Rummage Store was able to move from its former location at 110 E. Main across the street to 105 E. Main and re-open for business on Nov. 20.

The store is a non-profit thrift store that opened in February 2016 and exists on donations. The store revenue pay for the bills, upkeep, supplies and exhibit items for the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry (ROMP), the store and the poetry contests, workshops and programs that director Shaun Perkins puts together.

ROMP Rummage sells all kinds of useful items at cheap prices for people who need them. In return, the store has allowed Perkins to continue her poetry work with the museum and to encourage people to write poetry.

ROMP has two poetry contests coming up, a ROMP POW! (Power of Words) Superhero Poem Contest and the Oklahoma Poem Contest.

Details of both contests can be found at the store or at the museum website: ROMPoetry.com.

A new special day at



ROMP STORE OWNER Shaun Perkins stands in front of her new store front on Main Street.

ROMP Rummage will be Poetry Friday. Any Friday, bring in an original poem on any subject that you have written and select a \$3 item for free in return.

Also in December, with any purchase, you will receive a \$5 coupon for your next visit. The coupon is associated with a Christmas Bucket List, and if you write a poem associated with one of the items on the list, you can redeem the coupon.

As in the old location, the store will also have a museum annex, although this project is not complete yet. The former annex displayed an Autograph Poetry exhibit. The new exhibit is a work in progress, and details will be announced soon. The new annex will be located in the hallway and in the restroom of the store. Yes, a museum in a restroom. Only in Locust Grove.

The store will also be open an extra day, as a new volunteer has been added to the all-volunteer workforce, which includes Perkins, Doris Rable and Betty Perkins. Virginia Bayless will be working on Wednesdays, so the store is now open Wed., noon-4 p.m. and Thu.-Sat. from 10-4.

For more information about the store, like the ROMP Rummage Store page on Facebook or call 918-864-9152.

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New LGAA member loves her town

New Locust Grove Arts Alliance member, Virginia Bayless, volunteers her time to the LGAA/Chamber office and ROMP Rummage Store.

"I love meeting the people and see some of their real needs. I enjoy promoting the town when working the LGAA/Chamber office," Bayless said.

Locust Grove is dear to her.

"I've lived here for more than 25 years and love the small-town feel. I know if I'm in need, someone will help. We also have a variety businesses that will, hopefully, continue to grow," she said.

Bayless's husband has worked at RAE Corporation for more than 20 years. Her son is an LG police officer, her daughter-in-law is a police dispatcher, and her daughter is a night supervisor at Sonic.

Her family has always seen Bayless's work with arts and crafts.

"The creating of art has been a way for me to escape and relax and to let go of the worries of the day," Bayless said.

She loves to paint, scrapbook, and sew.

"Painting helps me when troubled and gives me a way to be creative," she said.

View Bayless's work at the LGAA/Chamber office, above and below. She has painted ceiling tiles and created handmade ornaments for the LGAA Handmade Holiday Ornament Show/Contest.



VOLUNTEERING.. Virginia Bayless sits at the checkout desk at ROMP Rummage Store where she donates her time on Wednesdays to help the community and the nonprofit store operated by Shaun Perkins.







CEILING TILE ART. . . LGAA member Alysha Little holds the ceiling tile which she painted for the organization's office at 114 E. Main. The likeness is of Wilma Cowan, a long-time Locust Grove resident, who is also the mother of Justin Cowan. Justin and Linda Cowan donated the building which houses the LGAA and Chamber office.



SANTA ends the Christmas Parade with a big wave.







YARD OF THE MONTH... Ken and Barbara Smith, photo at left, were awarded Chamber Yard of the Month for November. Their yard at 5982 E. 560 Road is full of holiday blow-up characters.

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Mummy & Me Dance raises \$800 for LGUB

By Melissa McClendon

More than 100 families attended the Locust Grove Upper Elementary first ever Mummy and Me Dance on Thursday, Oct. 26. Dressed in their costumes, students and parents danced to Halloween music and had their photos taken by Marea Breedlove Photography.

The idea for a Mummy & Me dance is somewhat of a spin –off, of the Daddy Daughter Dance held in the spring. Only this dance was open to the entire family.

"The dance was a huge hit," said Locust Grove Upper Elementary Principal, Shannon Hall. "Families came out and had a great time."

The event was a fundraiser for the school. Hall said money raised from the gate, concession and photos helps purchase resources for teachers and supplies for the classroom. The school uses fundraisers to help offset the cost of materials the district is not able to purchase.

Fundraiser or not, students had a great time at the dance. Blakely Saffell attended the event with her dad Clay. The couple dressed as a donut maker and a giant donut. Saffell said her dad was embarrassed because, "he was wearing a big donut."

"That was probably the best part. I got to see all my friend's costumes," Saffell said.

LGUE Librarian Kathy Stephens also opened the Scholastic Book Fair the night of the dance. Parents were able to take their students and browse the book fair as well as attend the dance. Stephens said watching the parents come in to the book fair dressed up with their kids was a lot of fun. Opening the book fair the night of the fundraiser was also a profitable decision.

"We made \$800 in an hour and a half, so it worked out really well," Stephens said. "They all looked really cute shopping in their costumes."





MUMMY AND ME. . . Clay Saffell and his daughter, Blakely, dressed as a donut maker and a donut for the Mummy and Me Dance at the Locust Grove Upper Elementary Oct. 26. -Photo by Marea Breedlove





WINNING ORNAMENTS... Betty Perkins won most artistic for "Christmas Time," and Sasha Durnal won for best use of nature for her ornament, "Red Bird," in the LGAA sponsored Ornament Making Contest.



Robotics team qualifies for regionals

Locust Grove High School's robotics team, "Davy Jones Locker," made history for the school on Saturday, Nov. 18 when they finished first at Bishop Kelley High School in Tulsa to qualify for the Oklahoma Regional Championship in February in Weatherford.

A successful finish at Southwestern State University in Weatherford would earn the team a spot in the Super Regional Competition in Athens, Georgia in March. The team's goal is to be selected to compete at Worlds in Houston in April.

The team is hosting a qualifier tournament Jan. 6 at the high school gym. Teams from Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri will compete. The public is welcome to attend any part of the competition. The team will have a concession stand, and is looking for volunteers for the event.

This qualifying tournament is one of eight held in the state which teams can enter in the hopes of getting into the Oklahoma Regional Championship Tournament. Teams can enter two qualifying tournaments in an effort to reach that goal.

Teams are judged on robot performance, team interview, engineering notebook, and its overall de-



DAVY JONES LOCKER... Members of the Locust Grove High School Robotics Team, "Davy Jones Locker," include, from bottom left kneeling: Mackenzie Newton, Josh Roberts, Paxton Brown; Standing, left to right, Kyla Labit, Kaden Rhodes, Drake Brown, Nathan Briggs, Elisha Thomas, Logan Sharp, Emily Ward, James Richardson, Josh Cole, Bennett Brown, Jimmy Vich, Remington Ward, Caleb Gottlab, Tom Rehl (mentor and network administrator), Jace Campbell and Karen Vich (mentor and STEM teacher at LGHS. Not pictured are Theoria Lovell and Brenten Turner.

meanor and performance during the tournament.

"Teams will be arriving as early as 7:30 a.m., according to Tammy Ward, parent mentor, who helps out with outreach and engineering notebook, "and they will do their team interviews, trial runs with their robots, and set up their displays until about noon."

Opening ceremonies will be at noon, and the robot competition will begin at 12:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Karen Vich heads the

high school robotics team as STEM teacher. She is joined on the advisory team by Tom Rehl, network administrator for the school; Linda Rhodes, mentor and school sponsor who is also a second grade teacher; Scott Labit, a parent mentor who helps with technical advice.

"The talent of these kids is just amazing," Ward said. She said that as middle school students, they started with Lego robotics and have moved into the Tech Challenge robotics.

Members of the team are

James Richardson, Josh Roberts, Paxton Brown, Nathan Briggs, Bennett Brown, Mackenzie Newton, Remington Ward, Drake Brown, Jimmy Vich, Josh Cole, Cale Gottlab, Emily Ward, Kyla Labit, Elisha Thomas, Logan Sharp, Jace Campbell, Kaden Rhodes, Brenton Turner and Theoria Lovell.

The team will sat up a booth and sold Christmas ornaments they made using the Laser engraver. Orders for the ornaments at \$3 each can be taken by any of the adult leaders.

Wonder City Coffee entertainment set

Wonder City Coffee will have a jam-packed entertainment event calendar in December, starting with the first foosball tournament in the shop.

The David Fishinghawk Memorial Foosball tournament on Dec. 8 will honor David, who loved the game, and his family.

Half of the tournament proceeds, including extra donations, will go to a college scholarship fund for David's daughter Maddie. So come out to support Maddie, watch some great foosball, or even enter the tournament. The tournament will start at 5:30 p.m.

On Dec. 11, Monday, bring your kiddos to enjoy Juice Box Jams with Sarah Spurrier, from 10:30-11:00 a.m. Sarah presents a program of music, stories and fun with preschoolers and young kids at the coffee shop every second Monday.

On Dec. 15, the popular Painting with Pam makes a return appearance. This time Pam Quantie will teach participants how to paint a Christmas-themed picture of an evergreen tree branch with a Christmas ornament. This free workshop, sponsored by the LGAA, is already full, but you can call and get your name on the waitlist, in case someone cancels.

Bring the family, a date, some friends, or just yourself to enjoy a classic Christmas movie on Dec. 22. The popcorn machine will be brought out and excellent free popcorn will be served for your dining pleasure during the movie, which starts at 5:30 p.m.

The popular Open Mic will make its return on Dec. 29. Entertain the audience with a card trick, a story, a poem, a dance or song or any entertainment of your choice. Cash prize for the winner. Sign up by 6:00 p.m. to participate.



STORYTELLER. . . Choogie Kingfisher plays the flute during his performance as a part of the national event called Tellabrations, sponsored by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance at Wonder City Coffee Shop.



GIVE THANKS. . . A large group of painters turned out for a workshop presented by Heather Williams Davis of Honey Hush Creations on Nov. 10 at Wonder City Coffee. Forty people painted crosses and added the words "Give Thanks." Sarah Coday assisted Davis and also took this picture.